

Yellowstone Art Museum turns 50

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May/June 2014

Montana - The Land of Creativity

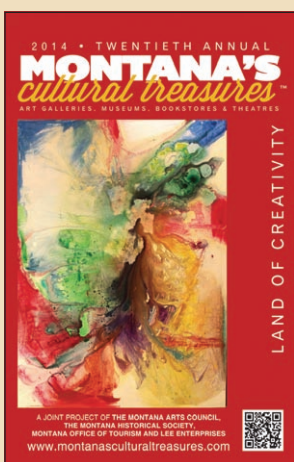
Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana

MAC NOTES

New Montana's Cultural Treasures now available

This guide to art galleries, museums, bookstores and theatres is produced annually by the Montana Arts Council, Montana Office of Tourism, Montana Historical Society and Lee Enterprises.

Montana's Cultural Treasures is distributed to arts entities around the state through the end of May and can be found at galleries, museums, and Certified Folder Display racks at hotels, motels, visitor centers and airports. You can also request copies at www.montanasculturaltreasures.com.



Cultural Trust guidelines

Cultural Trust Guidelines are now available at www.art.mt.gov/orgs/orgs_ca.asp.

Applications must be for cultural and aesthetic projects including, but not limited to, the visual, performing, literary and media arts, history, archaeology, folklore, archives, collections, research, historic preservation and the construction or renovation of cultural facilities. Applications are encouraged for projects serving rural communities, racial and ethnic groups, people with disabilities, institutionalized populations, youth and the aging.

The application deadline is Aug. 1.

The Art of Leadership

Audience-building webinars coming up

Socialize with us! (moderated panel discussion)
Tuesday, May 20, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join us for a roundtable discussion featuring three arts organizations that are successfully using social media to connect with their audiences. Alpine Theatre Company's

Luke Walrath, Alberta Bair Theater's Jody Grant and the Archie Bray Foundation's Rachel Hicks will continue the discussion that is featured in this issue, "Social Media and the Arts," on pages 20-22.

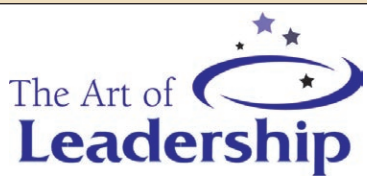
Website is key to telling GSC story

Wednesday, June 18, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

In this webinar we'll feature Kalispell's Glacier Symphony and Chorale's website with Executive Director Alan Satterlee leading the conversation. This successful website is the primary gateway for someone to get familiar with the organization. It's easy to navigate, and highly presentable. It provides quick, up-to-date access to GSC programs with highly visible click-through for ticket purchases. Take a peek at www.gscmusic.org.

Log-in instructions on MAC's website

You can join in easily to MAC's free webinars. Two weeks before each session, log-on links and instructions will be posted on MAC's website, art.mt.gov.



Jane Chu nominated to head NEA

President Obama has nominated Dr. Jane Chu, president and chief executive officer of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, MO, to lead the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

"Chu not only has a background in the arts, she has a reputation for managerial excellence and vision," writes *The Washington Post*.

The announcement comes as welcome news to arts advocates who have been concerned about the lack of an appointment to lead the agency, which has been without a head since Rocco Landesman stepped down in December 2012.

"Dr. Chu brings the valuable perspectives of multi-arts understanding, top management skills, and deep philanthropic knowledge to the position," writes Robert Lynch of Americans for the Arts. "She is trained as an artist but has also worked successfully as manager of complex business enterprises. This is a valuable mix, important to our nation's key public sector arts position."



Dr. Jane Chu (Photo courtesy of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts)

"She has spoken publicly about the importance of bringing the broadest array of America's arts riches to the broadest spectrum of the American people and has done so in her work in Kansas City. She understands the value of art at the community level and how the arts are transformative to individuals as well as places."

The timing of a possible confirmation for Chu is unclear. The nominee will meet privately with members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, which has jurisdiction over the NEA, to discuss her vision for the agency.

Should those meetings go well, recent history indicates that her nomination could bypass a hearing by the

committee and go straight to the floor for consideration by the Senate. Recent confirmations of NEA heads have taken three to four months, but because this announcement comes after most cabinet posts have been filled, it is possible she could win approval on a faster timetable.

— Courtesy of Isaac Brown, Lobbyist, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Helen Elliott: Retired but still a force for PAC

Reprinted with permission

From the *Independent Observer*, March 17

After many years steering the Pondera Arts Council, Helen Elliott had decided that it was time for someone else to provide leadership for the PAC. At the elections of officers at the last PAC board meeting, Tim Toeset was elected president and accepted the gavel from Elliott at the March meeting.

In remembering her many years as president, she recalls seemingly incredible events that have transformed a group of concerned citizens into the Pondera Arts Council. It all started over lunch one day in 1998 when a group of individuals decided to pursue bringing public radio to Conrad.

Philip Aaberg provided the entertainment for the kick-

off fundraising concert. Miraculously, and with help from many people, over \$10,000 was raised and Yellowstone Public Radio (91.3 FM) began broadcasting to Conrad and the surrounding area. Mission accomplished.

But that was only the beginning. The group, under Elliott's leadership, started looking for another project and, at some point, began calling itself the Pondera Arts Council. It was noted that there was no grand piano of any size in Conrad, so there were no piano concerts.

Once again, the group set out to raise funds and, with the help of the Montana Arts Council, was able to purchase a grand piano, which was placed at the Catholic

See Helen Elliott on page 2

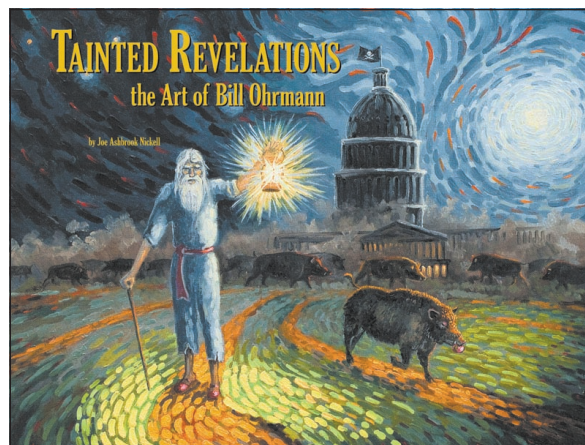
Book, retrospective celebrate Bill Ohrmann

Painter and sculptor Bill Ohrmann has been celebrated as a "Montana Living Treasure" by the Montana Arts Council. His response? "I suppose I'm just glad I'm living."

Now 95 years old, the former rancher from Drummond might qualify as an elder of the Northwest arts community, but for this: He only began seriously painting when he retired in 1996.

Since then, he has produced hundreds of canvases that explore his blistering criticism of the modern West and the world at large. Ohrmann's paintings are by turns wry, apocalyptic, horrifying and hilarious. They are bound together by his direct, almost illustrative painting style and his impassioned concern for the plight of oppressed creatures and cultures of the earth.

In *Tainted Revelations: The Art of Bill Ohrmann*, Missoula author Joe Ashbrook Nickell maps out the broad landscape of Ohrmann's oeuvre, communing along the way with the cavemen and future-men, tigers and mice, neighbors and nymphs who speak their truths through the painter's brush.



"Bill Ohrmann is the Charlie Russell of latter-day Montana," says Nickell, a two-time NEA Arts Journalism Institute fellow and the former arts reporter for the *Missoulian*. "In his work, we see the beauty and the brutality

of this land, the mythology and the madness of its people. This is important work that will resonate and influence western artists for decades to come."

The 140-page hardcover book features more than 100 full-color reproductions of Ohrmann's work, eloquently illuminating the artist's singular worldview.

In conjunction with the book's publication, the Missoula Art Museum will host a retrospective exhibit

of Ohrmann's work, June 6-Oct. 12, with a reading and reception slated for 5-8 p.m. June 19.

While MAM has featured a solo exhibition of Ohrmann's paintings in the past, "Tainted Revelations" will serve more as a survey of the artist's multi-faceted approach to his practice. In addition to paintings, the retrospective includes many sculptures, including a large steel-fabricated work displayed outside.

For more information, visit missoulaartmuseum.org.